

## Many Ways to Combine Sentences

(with important information from Palomar ESL Professor Lee Chen and based on the “Sentence Blending” PowerPoint presentation on this topic)

### 1. Use a noun clause

*A noun clause contains a word or words such as: that, what, where, the fact that, etc. to serve as the subject before a verb or the object after it.*

Example of simple sentences: The student said something. The student liked the flowers.

Example of a noun clause sentence: The student said **that** she liked the flowers.

### 2. Use an adjective clause

*An adjective clause describes a noun that immediately precedes it. This move can make your writing sound more academic.(Chen)*

Example of simple sentences: The student was careful. The student decided to make friends.

Example of an adjective clause sentence: The student, who was careful, decided to make friends.

### 3. Use an appositive

*An appositive renames the subject.*

Example of simple sentences: The student was careful. The student decided to make friends

Example an appositive that describes the subject: The student, a careful person, decided to make friends.

### 4. Make a compound sentence

*A compound sentence uses a coordinating conjunction (the FANBOYS) to combine two simple sentences.*

The FANBOYS: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*

Example of simple sentences: She was friendly. She met everyone.

Example of a compound sentence: She was friendly, and she met everyone.

## 5. Make a complex sentence

*A complex sentence uses a subordinating conjunction to combine two simple sentences.*

Example of simple sentences: She was friendly. She met everyone.

Example of a complex sentence: She met everyone since she was friendly.\*

*\*Note: Sometimes the order of simple sentences needs to switch to make logical sense.*

## 6. Make a compound-complex sentence to combine three sentences

*A compound-complex sentence uses a coordinator and a subordinator to make three sentences into one.*

Example of simple sentences: The student was careful. The student was friendly. The student decided to make friends.

Example of a compound-complex sentence: While the student was careful, he was also friendly, so he decided to make friends.

## 7. Use a semicolon

*A semicolon connects **related** ideas.*

1. Use a semicolon between sentences not joined by the FANBOYS.

Example of simple sentences (in this example, imperative sentences): Take with you only indispensable things. Leave behind all the heavy and bulky items.

Example of a semicolon for when the ideas in the two sentences are so closely related that a period would make too distinct a break between them: Take with you only indispensable things; leave behind all the heavy and bulky items.

2. Use a semicolon between sentences joined by such logical sentence connectors as *for example, for instance, that is, besides, accordingly, moreover, furthermore, otherwise, instead, therefore, consequently, hence, nevertheless, however*, etc. This move achieves coherence.

Example of simple sentences: The class was hard. The professor just did not understand the students.

Example of a semicolon with a logical sentence connector to achieve coherence: The class was hard; that is, the professor just did not understand the students.

## College Stress

One reason college is stressful is because tests are hard. There are too many questions. It is not easy to know the grading. For example, one time I had a grammar quiz. There were a lot of questions. I did not feel I had enough time. I forgot to answer some questions. I got my test back. It had a "C". I still do not know what teachers want. I am still trying. This is one reason college is stressful.

**Brainstorming space on combining sentences (Example: There are too many questions, and it is not easy to know the grading):**

**My new paragraph:**

**Original Sentence Count:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Sentence Count** \_\_\_\_\_

## A Great Taco

If you want to make a great taco, you need to start with a fresh tortilla. You can use corn. You can use flour. Then, you need a filling. It can be ground beef or chicken. It can be carne asada or carnitas. Carnitas is a special pork. It is boiled then fried. Next you need vegetables. You can have lettuce. You can have tomato. Some people use onions. Add guacamole and salsa too. Sour cream can also be good on tacos. This is how to have a perfect taco.

**Brainstorming space on combining sentences (Example: There are too many questions, and it is not easy to know the grading):**

**My new paragraph:**

**Original Period Count:**\_\_\_\_\_

**New Period Count**\_\_\_\_\_